

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of establishing a connection to a desired
2 communications network, comprising the steps of:
3 sending a request signal to each of a plurality of communications
4 networks;
5 receiving response signals from said communications networks;
6 indicating the received response signals;
7 allowing a user to select one of said plurality of networks based on the
8 indicated response signals; and
9 establishing a connection to the selected communications network.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said response signal indicates
2 traffic congestion level of each of said communications networks.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said response signal indicates
2 information concerning a communication service of each of said
3 communications networks.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said information indicates tariff
2 of each of said communications networks.

1 5. A communication terminal comprising:
2 a network interface for sending a request signal to each of a plurality
3 of communications networks and for receiving response signals from said
4 communications networks; and

5 a user interface for indicating the received response signals to allow a
6 user to enter a command signal based on the indicated response signals and
7 selecting one of said plurality of networks according to the entered command
8 signal; and
9 said network interface establishing a connection to one of said
10 plurality of networks which is selected by said user interface.

1 6. The communication terminal of claim 5, wherein said response
2 signal indicates traffic congestion level of each of said communications
3 networks.

1 7. The communication terminal of claim 5, wherein said response
2 signal indicates information concerning a communication service of each of
3 said communications networks.

1 8. The communication terminal of claim 7, wherein said
2 information indicates tariff of each of said communications networks.

1 9. A communication system comprising:
2 a plurality of wireless networks, each of the wireless networks
3 producing a response signal upon receipt of a request signal; and
4 a wireless terminal comprising:
5 a wireless interface for sending said request signal to each of
6 said plurality of wireless networks and for receiving response signals from
7 said wireless networks;
8 a user interface for indicating the received response signals,

9 allowing a user to enter a command signal based on the indicated response
10 signals and selecting one of said wireless networks according to the entered
11 command signal,
12 said wireless interface establishing a connection to one of said
13 wireless networks which is selected by said user interface.

1 10. The communication system of claim 9, wherein said response
2 signal indicates traffic congestion level of each of said communications
3 networks.

1 11. The communication system of claim 9, wherein said response
2 signal indicates information concerning a communication service of each of
3 said communications networks.

1 12. The communication system of claim 11, wherein said
2 information indicates tariff of each of said networks.

1 13. A method of performing a handover operation, comprising the
2 steps of:
3 sending a handover request signal to each of a plurality of wireless
4 networks;
5 receiving a response signal from each of said plurality of wireless
6 networks, the response signal of each wireless network indicating traffic
7 congestion level of the network;
8 selecting one of said plurality of wireless networks based on response
9 signals received from said wireless networks; and

10 establishing a connection to the selected wireless network.

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1 14. A mobile terminal comprising:

2 a wireless interface for sending a handover request signal to each of a
3 plurality of wireless networks and receiving a response signal from each of
4 said plurality of wireless networks, the response signal of each wireless
5 network indicating traffic congestion level of the network; and

6 control circuitry for selecting one of said plurality of wireless networks

7 based on the response signals received from said networks,

8 said wireless interface establishing a connection to the wireless

9 network selected by the control circuitry.

1 15. A communication system comprising:

2 a plurality of wireless networks, each of said networks producing a
3 response signal upon receipt of a handover request signal which indicates
4 traffic congestion level of the network; and

5 a wireless terminal comprising:

6 a wireless interface for sending said handover request signal to
7 said wireless networks and receiving said response signals from said wireless
8 networks; and

9 control circuitry for selecting one of said wireless networks

10 based on the received response signals,

11 said wireless interface establishing a connection to one of said

12 wireless networks which is selected by said control circuitry.

1 16. A method of establishing a connection to a selected network,

2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving, at a first communications network, a connection request

4 from a user terminal;

5 sending a request signal from said first communications network to a
6 traffic management center if said connection request encounters a traffic
7 congestion; and

8 sending a rerouting message from the center to said user terminal via
9 said first communications network for identifying a second communications
10 network whose congestion level is lower than a predefined threshold level to
11 thereby allow a user to send a connection request to said second
12 communications network.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein said second communications
2 network has a least routing cost.

1 18. A communication system comprising:

2 a traffic management center; and

3 a plurality of communications networks, a first one of the
4 communications networks receiving a connection request from a user
5 terminal and sending a request signal to said traffic management center when
6 a traffic congestion is encountered in said first communications network and
7 receiving a rerouting message from said center, and sending the received
8 rerouting message to said user terminal to allow a user to establish a
9 connection to a network identified by the rerouting message,
10 said traffic management center responding to said request signal by
11 returning said rerouting message to said first communications network, the

12 rerouting message identifying a second one of said networks whose
13 congestion level is lower than a predefined threshold level.

1 19. The communication system of claim 18, wherein said second
2 one of the networks has a least routing cost.

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